

REGARDING THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

1950 FESTIVAL

The 16th annual National Folk Festival will be held at Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, April 12th to 15th, inclusive. The program will include three special divisions:

1. Matinee and evening performances in Kiel Auditorium Opera House.
2. Morning Conferences — 10 to 12 A. M. Discussion for leaders.
3. After-Performance Parties — Kiel Auditorium. Groups exchange dances.

THE GENERAL PLAN

Each Spring for the past sixteen years, the Festival has brought together folk musicians, dancers, singers, tale-tellers and others from average of about 25 states, to give a cross-section glimpse of the folk traditions used around home fires or in community gatherings, from early days until now.

THE OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to encourage the use of folk songs, music, dances and other lore as leisure-time activities to meet present day recreational needs; to stimulate leaders in various communities to utilize their deeply-rooted folk expressions in festivals and other folk activities in both rural and urban communities; to help preserve through continued use, the traditions which reflect life as it has been lived in the United States, and in other countries from which our people have come; to encourage the continuation of the distinctive, basic cultural manifestations of the varied racial and national groups that make up our country; to demonstrate the universal similarities in the traditional heritages of all peoples; to create better understanding, and strengthen national unity among our people of different races and nationalities, by furnishing a common ground.

HOW THE FESTIVAL IS FINANCED

The Festival is an educational, non-profit, cooperative organization. Neither sponsors in host cities nor the National Folk Festival Association has ever approached the Festival from the standpoint of making money; yet, it is absolutely necessary that we try to make our expenses.

A Sponsoring Committee in the city where the Festival is held, guarantees the money necessary for four months work in developing the Festival program, and carrying on the local educational and promotional work. Any deficits are paid by the sponsor. The money taken in through ticket sales goes to repay the sponsor.

In spite of the fact that from the attendance, it might seem that a profit is made, such is not the case. From the very beginning it was realized that admission prices must be in accordance with a people's event — 30c 50c 75c and \$1.00, with the largest number of tickets sold to school children at the lowest price for the matinees and at 75c for evenings. Each year the largest item in the budget is for hall rental and charges. Plenty high! Taxes now take a great big slice, not to mention the increased cost of printing and everything else.

ARE PERFORMERS EXPENSES PAID?

No, they cannot be paid, as much as we should like to do so. It might be better, it surely would be easier. However, without a large subsidy or money grant of some kind, this is not possible.

MAKE PROGRAMS GENUINE

Each leader should make every effort to make his program measure up to a genuine standard. Some dances

are more exciting than others; some costumes more colorful; some presentations naturally have more audience appeal. We want these colorful, dramatic offerings, but let us not lose sight of the songs and dances of more quiet charm.

Life in the United States or in any other country, has not been made up entirely of exciting moments. The folk songs and dances which reflect it, have their high moments and their low ones, as far as audience appeal goes. Both are necessary to a well-rounded Festival program. Genuine folk song, music, dance, tales, and other lore should reflect something of the racial characteristics and national temperaments of the group that has inherited them. However, this is only true if they are done in the traditional manner. Of course, some changes do come about with the changed conditions of life of each new generation; but the fundamentals do not change.

Professional entertainers have one style; folk entertainers have another. As you develop your program, be very sure that you stay in the folk tradition.

While the Festival is presented on a stage, there is no reason whatever for us to become "stagey" or theatrical. Make your program as natural and real as if it were done in the family parlor or at the community hall in your home town.

DUPLICATION OF DANCES

Let's avoid duplication of dances. We had several instances of two groups presenting the same dances on the same program last year. Not only did many Western Square Dances and not enough of a cross-section glimpse of the characteristic dances of different regions. We strongly urge each dance group to bring the dances which are most typical of their particular region. Let's see how many different types of dances we can have this year.

POLKA-Y-DOTS BIRTHDAY PARTY

On March 25th Les Geiger and the Polka-Y-Dots will celebrate their fifth birthday with a big folk dance party at the Stockton Auditorium. Everyone in the Stockton area and other parts are cordially invited.

SOAP FOR THE NEEDY

When the Californian Folk Dance Federation sponsored their festival in the Oakland Auditorium on January 17th, the price of admission was a bar of soap. This collected soap was sent to the soapless countries of Europe. Some 10,000 bars were collected. It is a most complimentary gesture. A "Skol" to the Federation.

LEE VERN BROTHERTON

Our North Dakotan buddy from Forbes and Ellendale, Lee Vern Brotherton, has become a school teacher at the tender age of 20, in charge of 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Lee is also an accomplished musician and a folk dancer.

FRISCAN SCOTS LOSE DIRECTOR

The Reel and Strathspey Club, the "Caledonians" from the Bay Area who did some extra-fine Scottish dancing, suffered recently a very serious set back when their excellent leader Margaret Lamont, became ill with a heart ailment. As a result she had to retire from the teaching field. Bob Lamont, Margaret's hubby, is this year's editor of California's Federational magazine. Both of them moved out to Guerneville (Cal.) where Margaret will be removed from dance temptation. However, Margaret is not idle. She has taken over the job of business manager for the magazine.

ATEITIS

CREAM WITH OUR TEA

Our performance at the little Lithuanian Theatre was a bubbling affair; that is, bubbling with enthusiasm and fun. And as that well-known literary artist and critic, Fabian, wrote, the audience exceeded our enthusiastic dancing with their enthusiastic applause. At the tea following the performance, we received lovely comments on our dancing. One lady told us that we made her happy by our dancing. It surely made me happy to believe that I played a small part in making other people happy.

Because we were afraid that we lost weight after all that dancing, some of us went to the White Mill and ordered a bowl of whipped cream.

"TLL DANCE AT YOUR WEDDING" or "SLIPPING AROUND"

Quoting Frank, we had a "terrific" time performing at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Kairys, even though the floor was uncomfortably slippery. Consequently, Frank had to do Vestuviu on his knees. When the Grand March came on, Al Gimbut, far behind, caught up to us by just sliding into his place. Unfortunately, he couldn't stop sliding until the dinner table stopped him.

BARRINGTON

The Barrington people deserve a gold medal for the splendid festival they put on again this year. We looked forward to that festival and with good reason. They take good care of us out there, we always see fine folk-dances there, and the bus ride to and from Barrington gives us a chance to show our choral singing talents.

INSPIRATION

I understand Vyts got a brainstorm (I hope he wasn't hurt) one evening and could not sleep all night thinking up a program for our coming concert. He is going to have us dances in a historical story form, showing origins of Lithuanian dances and the different ways one dance is done. We are going to learn three Malunas's, two Lencugelis's, four Mikita's, and three Ozelis's. And now that we practice twice a week, I guess we'll produce a successful concert.

DID YOU KNOW —

that Eleonor Mellas won second prize in her school, Calumet, in a posture contest. (Can't say Eleanor is stoo-pid)

that the Ateitis holds a spot in the hearts of absent members. Two members, Ed Williams and Al Girsakis, did not forget us and returned to our fold, unwrinkled (pun) after two years of army life.

that the dance group is good material to write a term paper on. Even my hard-to-please rhetoric teacher thought my paper on the group interesting.

In closing I would like to beg you to stop hurting your legs and ankles as we need you and you, and you. Honestly, our dance group gets more casualties than a football team.

Chile

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

VILTIS and the members of the ATEITIS folk dance group extend their deepest regrets to John Tamulonis and his wife Victoria, on the death of John's father, M. Alexander Tamulonis. Mr. Tamulonis died on Feb. 26th and was laid to rest at St. Casimir's cemetery on March 1st. John is one of the original and active members of the ATEITIS group.

ATEITIS

3rd Annual Dance Program

A super performance is in the making with the "Ateitis" Lithuanian folk dancers under the direction of the renowned Vyt F. Beliajus. The Concert will be presented on April 23, 1950 at Sokol Hall — 2337 So. Kedzie Ave. at 4:30 P. M.

Vyt Beliajus is an authority on authentic folk dances and is one of the finest folk-dancing instructors in the States. Under his direction, the Ateitis dancers will perform "A History of Lithuanian Dances."

From antiquity, the people of Lithuania evolved a culture of its own based almost exclusively on agriculture and nature subjects. But through the centuries foreign influence was bound to permeate. Therefore, not only will you see the real authentic Lithuanian dances, and the influence of surrounding countries such as Latvia, Poland and countries as far off as Spain. The dances will be of great contrast and variety of rhythm.

The natural presentation of the Lithuanian dances has won for the Ateitis dancers a notable reputation.

Don't miss seeing the historical evolution of the dances of Lithuania.

After the program there will be social and folk dancing — opportunity to release antics of your own. Remember April 23, at Sokol Hall — 4:30 P. M. See you there.

Jay

ATEITIS LITHUANIAN DANCERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 4:30 P. M.

at the

SOKOL HALL

will present on

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THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE

* LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE *

An Unusual Dance Recital To Be Missed By None
Folk and General Dancing after program until midnight.

Admission ONE DOLLAR, tax included.

THE CIURLIONIS ENSEMBLE

Incomparable — Lithuania's Best

on Sunday, April 16, 8:00 P. M.

under the direction of Alf. Mikulskis

will present a program of

* DANCES * SONGS *

★ INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ★

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